

Message Text

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28MCX|U09H AW
T6YS6E_0GE49GAP@)(6(RQT_#UF<P3/((UFGFDZE_UXZ*H;Q*T;JA*VG ?S(Y- DM XUH
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W!9A,9US-USV@!K*C|/WZ.C.2T)AKG.CC8!RUP5.*/.8=Q4GF<6&RA(\$TUH"CEK.9QRAV_+/*FW"T"|YMYF|R<GQJCW.5Q2>>*T6>\$9AEK.
I\$ZJ)5: SXRO8#F*TP-:6
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B7!&UX5\$</.22Y!7E=4))/PDHXRGZ;KD*,<D<D 1;M QJM 0G@6Q&T-W#7F/*-<@(YH L>
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7)QJYM*R!Q_0F;0J2YN*?+H,UFW8A@0QKF|RFFW!F!0V7_*F(*,68-UH>5UJQ;FGQ<M@P)QQ\$K01<P
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A#FW
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ADP000

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03142 02 OF 02 081320Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01

ITF-05 IGA-01 EUR-12 /086 W
----- 065834

O R 081200Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3702
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC
USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 3142

INDEED, WHEN REFUGEES HAD WANTED TO GO BACK TO THIS ZONE, WE HAD HELPED MATERIALLY. HE ADMITTED THAT HE ALSO HAD HEARD OF THIS JCCIA REQUEST ONLY THREE DAYS AGO. (COMMENT: CONSIDERING THAT HE SAID ON THIS OCCASION AND ON APRIL 26 AT LUANG PRABANG, VIENTIANE 2863, TOGETHER WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR CARDI'S COMMENTS, VIENTIANE 3061, IT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR THAT LPF HAVE PERSUADED SOUVANNA THAT THEIR PRESENT MILITARY EFFORT IS A REACTION TO "PROVOCATIONS" BY VANG PAO AND THAT IT IS LIMITED TO BRINGING PRESSURES ON HIM AND THE MEO.)

6. I PRESSED HIM FURTHER WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION ON ROUTE 13. HE WAVED HIS HAND AND SAID THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES. THE CABINET LAST NIGHT HAD DECIDED TO SEND A JOINT TEAM FROM JCCIA TO VANG VIENG AND SETTLE MATTER ON THE SPOT PEACEFULLY. IN FACT, HE SAID LOOKING AT HIS WATCH, THE TEAM SHOULD BE THERE NOW. HE AVOIDED ANSWERING DIRECTLY MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE OTHER SIDE'S FORCES WOULD RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS. INSTEAD, HE SAID THAT HE HAD ASSURANCES THAT TRUCKS COULD
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03142 02 OF 02 081320Z

GO UP TO LUANG PRABANG. (SITUATION THERE IS BECOMING QUITE SERIOUS WITH SHORTAGES OF POL AND FOOD.)

7. I ASKED HIM IF HE INTENDED TO MAINTAIN HIS PRESENT CABINET IN BEING. HE ANSWERED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING THE MATTER BUT HE THOUGHT MINISTER OF DEFENSE SISOUK WOULD HAVE TO GO. SISOUK IS TOO "INFLEXIBLE." FOR INSTANCE, HE SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED 40 DIRECTIVES ABOUT TRIVIAL MATTERS FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH PHOUMI, AS ACTING PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS ABSENCE, HAD REFUSED TO SIGN BECAUSE SECSTATE FOR DEFENSE KHAM OUANE BOUPHA (PL) HAD NOT COUNTERSIGNED THEM. "THIS IS CHILDISH," SAID SOUVANNA. SISOUK SHOULD ALLOW BOUPHA TO DO HIS JOB. I POINTED OUT THAT SISOUK WAS CONFRONTED BY A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE

OTHER SIDE HAD ITS OWN ARMED FORCES; THE 130 MM GUNS ON ROUTE 7, I INDICATED, HAD NOT BEEN TOOLED IN SAM NEUA. TO THIS SOUVANNA ANSWERED THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE MINISTERS ONLY HAD TO ASK TO GO TO SAM NEUA AND THEY WOULD BE RECEIVED THERE. I ASKED HIM IF HE REALLY WAS SAYING THAT SISOUK COULD ASK TO GO TO LPF ZONE AND BEGIN NEGOTIATING WITH THE LPF ARMED FORCES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE TWO FORCES. HE ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

8. COMMENT: I HAVE REPORTED THIS CONVERSATION IN DETAIL BECAUSE I WANTED TO CONVEY FLAVOR OF THE MAN'S PRESENT DISPOSITION. I AM NOW CONVINCED THAT SOUVANNA HAS COLDLY JUDGED THAT VIENTIANE SIDE IS NO LONGER A FACTOR, AND THAT THE ONLY CHANCE HE HAS OF ACHIEVING HIS GOALS OF UNIFYING THE COUNTRY AND PRESERVING ITS INDEPENDENCE IS TO SECURE AN ACCOMMODATION WITH LPF. FOR TWENTY YEARS THESE HAVE BEEN HIS UNWAVERING POLITICAL GOALS AND AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, WHICH IS UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF A NEW HEART ATTACK, SOUVANNA MUST FEEL THE CONSTRAINTS OF TIME. (FURTHERMORE, I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THE ONLY MAN IN WHOM HE HAS ANY CONFIDENCE IS HIS BROTHER, SOUPHANOUVONG.) THIS IS HIS LAST CHANCE AND HE HAS CONCLUDED ONLY LPF CAN GIVE IT TO HIM.

CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 8 CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SUMMARY. IN SHORT MEETING TODAY (MAY 8) WITH PRIME
TAGS: PINS, LA, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006